

From: (b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) Enf. Privacy
To: (b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) Enf. Privacy
Subject: Re: Significant Environmental Health Concerns
Date: Wednesday, June 12, 2024 1:51:56 PM

Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

Good afternoon,

Can you please respond or follow up on the May 24th, 2024 complaint?

Thank you,

(b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) Enf. Privacy

On Friday, May 24, 2024 at 12:15:50 PM CDT, (b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) Enf. Privacy wrote:

Dear EPA Officials,

I am writing (b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) Enf. Privacy to inform you about a significant concern regarding environmental hazards in our community. On May 13th, 2024, the attached letter and video were sent to our governing officials, and your department was included in the email. Only a few commissioners and government staff responded.

The County Administrator, David Johnston, responded to our May 13th email stating, "Our code enforcement team has already scheduled a code enforcement effort this week involving our community policing officers. As for Big Eleven Lake, our parks department informed me that it is working with our public works department on installing an aeration apparatus to help reduce algae growth. The increased dissolved oxygen in the water should add a huge prevention tool against algae growth. This installation should be completed within the next year."

The aeration apparatus was supposed to have been installed a long time ago, but when residents started asking questions about the aesthetic changes the UG was designing as part of their NE Master Plan, the installation of the apparatus was hindered. An engineer from (b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) Enf. Privacy questioned why the Unified Government (UG) wanted to wait to address the core concerns. They appeared more interested in big aesthetic design plans.

On May 16th, the Kansas City Police Department and code enforcement performed a "blitz" to fine all business owners found in violation. However, one officer confirmed that officers were told not to thoroughly check facilities (especially in the back) where tires and junk cars were stored. Therefore, some of the main threats to our community were not addressed by authoritative figures. The blitz was influenced by our group's arrangement to get aerial footage of what was being hidden behind numerous facilities. Code enforcement and the police department heard about our plans from our assigned community officer.

In response to our email regarding the auto repair shops and code enforcement, (b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) Enf. Privacy of UG Urban Planning & Design said, "I will have our zoning enforcement officer coordinate with property maintenance compliance to look into these auto repair uses. Many of these auto repair shops are legal non-conforming as they were established and have continued operation since the updated standards were adopted almost a decade ago (i.e. requires them to go through the Special Use Permit process). With that

th

said, a first effort would be to enforce current codes. It's important to note that this (b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) corridor is bisected by the old inner-city rail link that went between KCK and Lawrence, which therefore has a lot of legacy industrially zoned properties. When the (b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) Enf. Privacy was updated in 2018, this segment of the (b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) corridor was envisioned as a mixed-use/ commercial gateway. This conflict between land use and zoning leads to the abundance of these legal non-conformities. Transforming the area is both a function of market forces and planning implementation work. A focused redevelopment initiative will certainly require sustained effort across multiple (not just UG) sectors."

For several years, air pollution, water contamination, and soil degradation from auto repair shops have posed a serious risk to public health, especially for vulnerable populations living in close proximity to these operations. What is unreasonable is that more repair shops have been allowed to infiltrate the area within a one-mile radius over the past few years.

(b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) Enf. Privacy requests a thorough federal investigation into our community's environmental concerns. The Wyandotte County Unified Government needs to be more effective in enforcing protocols for the safety of area residents. The local EPA has also been a disappointment to area residents due to politics involving the UG. We know the tactics used to misguide us and have grown weary of promises that are often not kept. Please help us create a healthier community.

I have attached the original letter and video footage for your review. Here is the link (b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) Enf. Privacy (b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) You should also be able to access the video from our previous email sent on May 13th to your department.

We are looking forward to hearing from you. Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

(b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) Enf. Privacy

President

(b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) Enf. Privacy